



National Network of Libraries of Medicine
Greater Midwest Region

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Dear Library Director:

The public is increasingly seeking online health information. In the latest report from the Pew Internet & American Life Project, an Internet research team, more than 4 in 10 health seekers (41%) say that the material they found during their last online search affected their decisions about whether they should go to the doctor, how to treat an illness, or how to question their physician.

Public librarians across the country are seeing a continuous growth in the already high number of requests for health information from their patrons. Reference librarians are receiving inquiries about alternative medicine, selecting a physician, wellness issues, or particular diseases or conditions. Patrons are also seeking free, quality, electronic health information written in lay terminology.

The National Library of Medicine (NLM), the world's largest medical library, would like to help you respond to this demand. NLM is a government agency and is located on the campus of the National Institutes of Health.

The National Library of Medicine's MEDLINEplus, a health resource, is accessible to all. MEDLINEplus offers the layperson authoritative, up-to-date, and totally private health information. Health topics, drug information, a medical encyclopedia, MEDLINE searches, clinical trials, and current news are just some of the features included at <http://medlineplus.gov/>.

The National Library of Medicine encourages public libraries to join the National Network of Libraries of Medicine Greater Midwest Region (GMR). Membership is free and offers public libraries the following advantages:

- Opportunities for continuing professional development by taking training workshops to search the National Library of Medicine's databases. GMR staff will travel to your institution for personalized hands-on training.
- Participate in funding opportunities for your library. The GMR provides consulting service for any institution. The GMR staff will provide recommendations on improvements of your proposal.
- Receive special mailings of National Library of Medicine's posters, brochures, and other informational materials.
- Receive support services by partnering with a health sciences library.

The National Library of Medicine encourages public libraries to join the National Network of Libraries of Medicine. Please review the enclosed documents, which provide more information about the Network and MEDLINEplus posters for your library. If you would like to join the Network, please return the affiliate membership registration form. If you have any questions, call us at 1-800-338-7657.

Sincerely,

Susan Jacobson
Director

Attachments

The National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Greater Midwest Region is supported by the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health. Service is provided to health science personnel in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.